

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

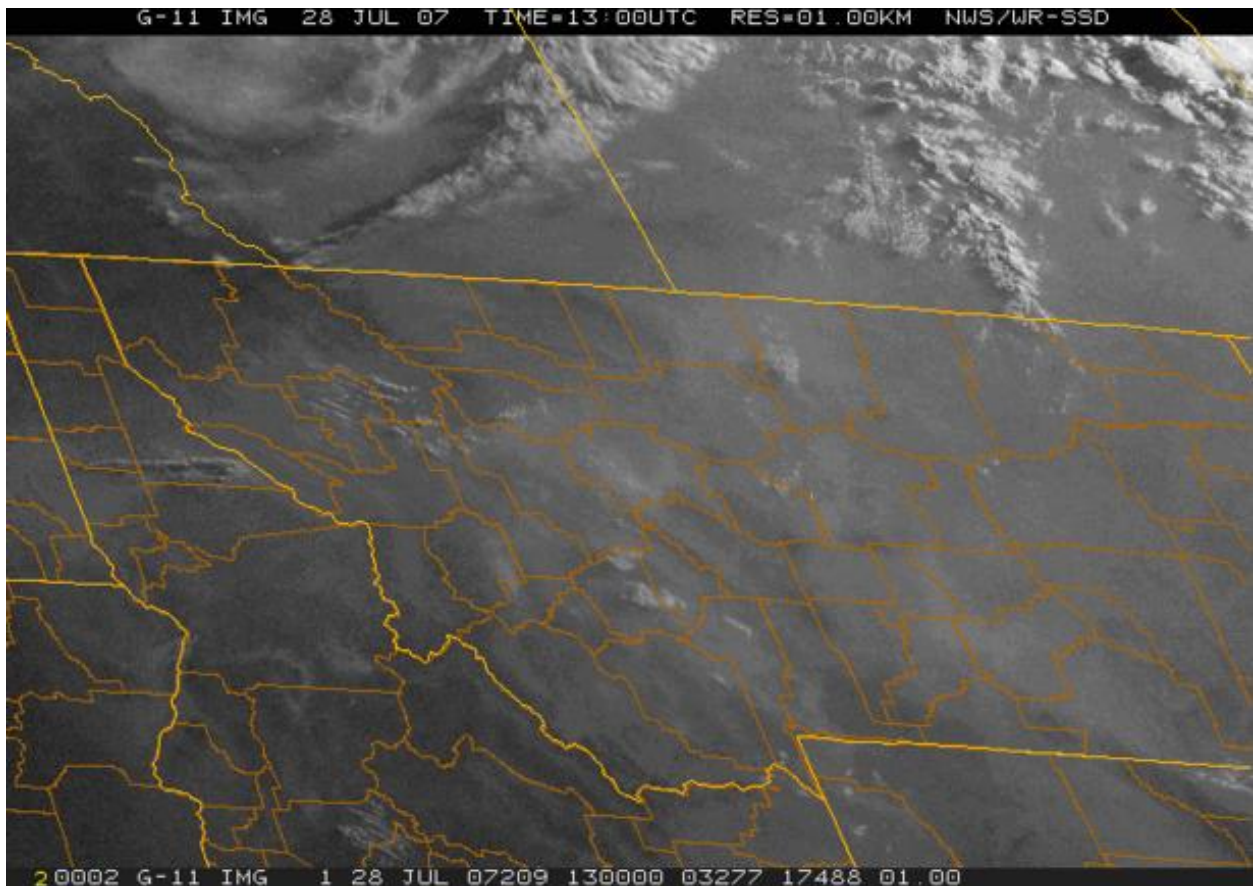
July 28 2007

10:00 AM Saturday

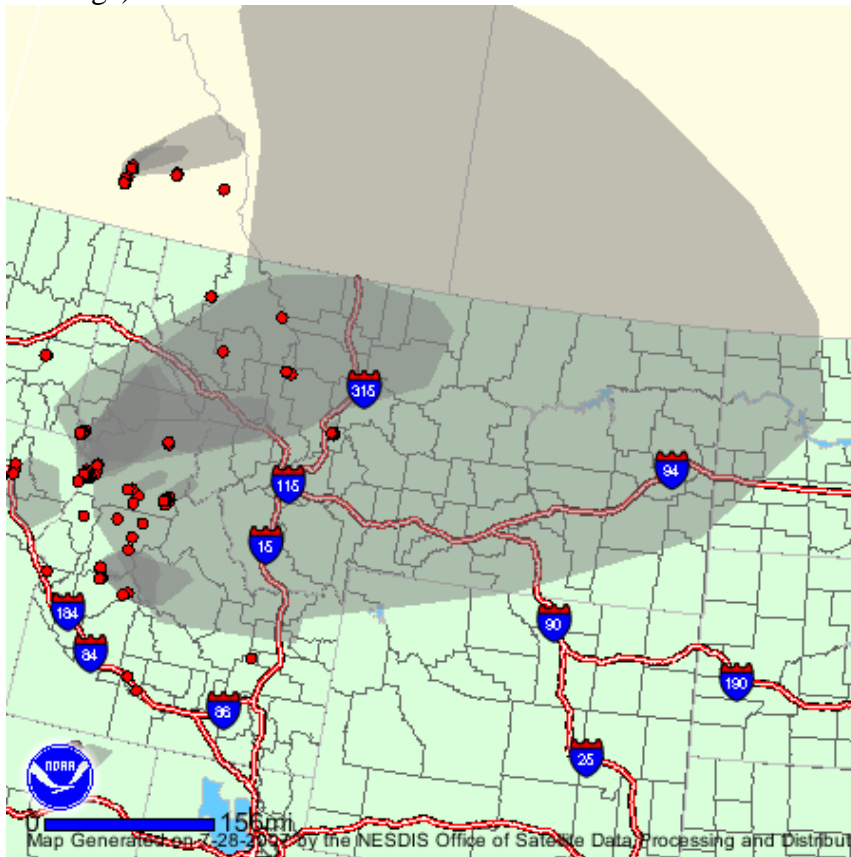
Current Situation

Smoke aloft will continue to produce hazy skies for a broad portion of Montana today. There are currently no areas with poor hourly conditions but persistent haze levels have caused [MODERATE](#) 24 hour values across the entire western half of the state except the northwestern corner. The areas around Whitefish, Kalispell, Polson, Ronan, Missoula, Hamilton, Butte, Choteau, and Helena are all posted at [MODERATE](#) at this time. Conditions immediately adjacent to the active fires are though to be [UNHEALTHY](#) or worse. Most of the smoke has come from Idaho and Oregon and westerly flow today will continue to push smoke into the state from those fires today. Local impacts near the active fires in Montana will also be of concern today as hotter and dryer conditions are on tap along with increased wind today. See the forecast below for details. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind(the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

Updated 10 AM July 28, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

<u>HAZARDOUS</u>	
<u>VERY UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY</u>	
<u>UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS</u>	
<u>MODERATE</u>	Whitefish T24 Kalispell T24 Polson (est) Ronan T24 Missoula T24 Hamilton T24 Helena T24 Butte T24 Chouteau T24

T1(x) One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
 T8(x) Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
 T24 24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
 Vis(x) Visibility value (number of hours)
 Vis(am/pm) Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
 (est) estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

The residual smoke aloft from yesterday's fire activity will continue to slowly make its way east today. Some of this smoke will mix down to the surface later this morning and will produce noticeable impacts for a few hours under the thickest parts of the plume. Westerly flow aloft will continue to push smoke from Idaho and Oregon into western and southwestern Montana today. Smoke levels in the currently affected communities will rise for few hours later this morning as the mixing height reaches the level of the smoke plume overhead. With a red flag warning for the northern Front Range and hot, dry, and windy conditions forecast this afternoon, the fires in the state could produce significant amounts of smoke locally. The smoke impacts will be localized to the east side of the fires today with a steady westerly transport wind this afternoon. Residents near active fires need to remain aware of current conditions and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

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